Epic 1 South Island, September 2026

27 - 7 October

Your Itinerary

DAY 1 Christchurch

Kia ora and welcome to ‘Te Wai Pounamu; New Zealand’s South Island! Our tour kicks off with a fun evening as we meet our fellow travelling crew and friendly Tour Manager and Tour Assistants.

Tonight, we have our first home cooked meal; a delicious duo of dinner and dessert. We then discuss the exciting days ahead and cover all details for the optional activities that are available to you during the tour!

Includes: First group dinner | Discuss the exciting days ahead | Meet your crew

DAY 2 Christchurch - Tekapo

Christchurch is our largest city in the South Island and following the 2010-11 earthquakes, this city has re-emerged as a vibrant, ever changing city.

This morning we take a city tour to see the devastation that hit Christchurch and what enormous efforts are going ahead to rebuild this amazing city.

We have time to visit the city, see the Cardboard Cathedral and the Chair Memorial before departing and heading through the Mackenzie Country to beautiful Lake Tekapo.

We stop off to see the famous ‘Church of the Good Shepherd’ followed by the Collie Dog Memorial. We have a soak in the beautiful thermal Tekapo Springs overlooking Lake Tekapo.before heading to our hotel in Omarama for our overnight.

Includes: Breakfast | Christchurch City tour | Church of the Good Shepherd | Dinner | Tekapo Springs Hot Pools

DAY 3 Omarama - Doubtful Sound

Today we experience the ultimate Doubtful Sound experience, spend the night on the boat and wake up in one of the most beautiful places on earth. This is one of our exclusive and very special tour highlights.

We start with a drive into the mystical wilderness of Fiordland National Park then cruise over Lake Manapouri before boarding the Fiordland Navigator for an overnight experience.

We have plenty of time to view the spectacular waterfalls, rainforest, mountains and wildlife and also go exploring in kayaks or simply go swimming in this amazing place (if you’re brave enough!).

As night falls, we enjoy a delicious buffet dinner then relax while doing some star gazing.

Includes: Breakfast | *Lake Manapouri* | *Doubtful Sound Overnight Boat* | *Kayaking in the Fiords* | *Dinner*

DAY 4 Doubtful Sound - Queenstown

Kia ora Queenstown - the 'Adventure Capital' of New Zealand and home to the latest and greatest adventure activities from bungy jumping and jet boating to whitewater rafting, river surfing and canyon swinging.

Our first stop is the famous AJ Hackett base, the birthplace of bungy and one of the most famous attractions in Queenstown. We watch the secrets of bungy and then for those of you who dare... you have time for an optional 43m bungy off Kawarau Bridge! It's then time to capture our awesome crew with a group photo before our short drive into the heart of Queenstown.

Tonight, enjoy some free time in this awesome alpine town and a meal of your choice.

Includes: Breakfast | *Secrets of Bungy* | *Group Photo*

DAY 5 Queenstown

Today is a free day and time to make the most of the adventure activities on offer! With special NZET prices, try a Canyon Swing, Nevis Bungy, River Rafting, Gondola & Luge or any one of the other thrilling activities with special NZET prices.

Do you feel like dangling on a high wire cable 134 metres over the valley floor? Then try the Nevis.

If jumping or being released from 109 metres into a canyon with over 70 different jumpstyles, try the Canyon Swing.

This afternoon you will see the best views in Queenstown on the Skyline Gondola which carries you 450 metres above Queenstown and Lake Wakatipu to the top of Bob's Peak followed by three thrilling luge rides down.

(Remember, as long as we have your natural parent's permission for the activities on offer, we will organise all of these activities for you while on tour).

Includes: Breakfast | *Dinner* | *Free day for optional activities* | *Gondola and Luge*

DAY 6 Queenstown - Wanaka

Our morning starts off with a spectacular jet boat ride on the world famous Shotover Jet. Travel over 10cm of water and hold on during the 360 degree spins. This is truely an unforgettable experience.

From here we head to Wanaka, a place of breathtaking lakes and mountains.

We visit Puzzling World, the world’s first modern-style maze and a deceptive, frustrating, confusing and definitely out of the ordinary experience!

This afternoon is yours to explore. Maybe hire some mountain bikes and ride around the lake or strap yourself to a stranger and leap 15,000ft out of a plane with a tandem skydive!

Includes: Breakfast | Shotover Jet Boat Ride | Puzzling World

DAY 7 Wanaka - Franz Josef

Get out your cameras as this morning we travel through three National Parks and some of the most awesome scenery.

Our walk to the base of Fox Glacier lets us have an up close and personal look at the frozen glacier river that was formed thousands of years ago. Fox Glacier falls 2,600m on its 13 km journey from the Southern Alps and attracts over 1000 people each day during the tourist season.

From here we travel to Franz Josef where we stay tonight. You may wish to take a Scenic Helicopter flight (at a very special NZET price) and experience the awe-inspiring scenery of Fox and Franz Josef Glaciers as you climb to 6000ft.

Tonight, we enjoy a pizza dinner before heading out to find the lights of glowworms amongst the rocks and trees.

Includes: Breakfast | Fox Glacier Walk | Glowworm walk | Dinner

DAY 8 Franz Josef - Motueka

Today we journey north and our first stop takes us to a Greenstone Factory in Hokitika. We watch experts carve beautiful Pounamu and learn about the history and tradition of this special jade stone.

We continue travelling along and up the spectacular West Coast to the famous Punakaiki 'Pancake Rocks'. We have time to explore the rocks and blowholes before jumping back onboard to travel through the impressive Buller Gorge.

We arrive in Motueka, situated beside the beautiful Abel Tasman National Park and our home for our next two nights.

Includes: Breakfast | Greenstone Factory | Lunch | Punakaiki (Pancake Rocks) | Abel Tasman National Park | Dinner

DAY 9 Motueka

We rise bright and early to take advantage of this paradise! We enjoy the ultimate sea kayaking experience and explore the beautiful golden beaches, peaceful coves and lagoons, offshore islands, wildlife and the native forest.

Stopping at our secluded beach, we have our picnic lunch and enjoy some free time to relax and go swimming before our hike back to the mainland.

Includes: Breakfast | Sea Kayaking | Hiking | Picnic Lunch | Dinner

DAY 10 Motueka - Kaikoura

This morning we cross the top of the South Island and down the spectacular East Coast to the picturesque coastal town of Kaikoura. This place is renowned for its abundance of marine life and this afternoon you have an opportunity to experience the unforgettable sight of whales or go swimming with dolphins.

If you don't feel like getting wet, there is also an optional boat trip to view these incredible marine mammals instead.

Tonight is our final night of the tour and a very special evening. We capture the epic memories that we have created on our tour with a mix of games, presentations and farewell prizes. Bring your tissues because tonight is full of laughs but also tears as you realise we have to say good bye tomorrow.

Includes: Breakfast | Optional Whale Watching or Swimming with Dolphins | Final Night Dinner

DAY 11 Kaikoura - Christchurch - Home

Our last morning takes us to a secret NZET spot where we get to see a seal colony before we make the drive back to Christchurch.

We are dropped off at Christchurch Airport at with an amazing bunch of new friends and 'ferntastic' memories.

Includes: Breakfast | Seal Colony | Farewell with great memories and new friends